

## Message Text

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ACTION NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15 DODE-00  
PM-05 L-03 NSC-05 DUMY-00 /052 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7244

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: TSPA, JA  
SUBJECT: SPACE SHUTTLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING

REF: (A) 77 STATE 279674, (B) 77 TOKYO 12242,  
(C) 77 TOKYO 18968, (D) 77 STATE 298258, (E) STATE  
86299

1. MOFA HAS DONE PRACTICALLY NOTHING IN UNIFYING GOJ  
RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST, FIRST MADE LAST DECEMBER AND  
REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES SINCE. ACCORDING TO MOFA  
(SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS DIVISION, UN BUREAU), MAIN REASON IS  
THAT UNDERSTAFFED DIVISION HAS BEEN TOO BUSY TO GIVE  
ATTENTION TO REQUEST (AMONG MATTERS WITH WHICH DIVISION  
OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN BURDENED ARE PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR-  
POWERED SATELLITES). RESPONDING TO OUR RENEWED PRODDING,  
DIVISION OFFICIAL PLEDGED MAXIMUM EFFORT TO PRODUCE AT  
LEAST BASIC AGREEMENT TO CONTINUED NASA PLANNING FOR  
CONTINGENCY LANDING OF SPACE SHUTTLE AT KADENA AIR BASE.  
IN FACT, HE SAID THAT APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE COULD BE  
EXPECTED SHORTLY.

2. HOWEVER, IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF DR. PIKUS OF  
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OES/APT/SA AND EMBOFF WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY  
OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPACE MATTERS, LATTER SAID  
THAT FAST ACTION BY MOFA SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED, SINCE  
COORDINATION WITH EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE NUMBER OF  
MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES WAS REQUIRED DUE TO SENSITIVITIES  
OVER MIXED CIVILIAN-MILITARY OPERATIONS, INTERNAL  
PROBLEMS IN OKINAWA WITH U.S. BASES THERE, AND LACK OF

FAMILIARITY WITH SHUTTLE AMONG NON-TECHNICAL OFFICIALS.  
STA REPS HELD OPINION THAT MOFA'S HANDS WOULD BE TIED  
UNTIL AFTER CURRENT DIET SESSION IS COMPLETED ON ABOUT  
MAY 17. IF DIET WERE TO BECOME AWARE OF US PROPOSAL  
WHILE IN SESSION, ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MATTER  
WOULD BECOME A DOMESTIC ISSUE DESIGNED TO EMBARASS FUKUDA  
GOVERNMENT.

3. ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT STA ANALYSIS MAY BE WRONG,  
IT SOUNDS VERY CONVINCING TO US, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT  
THAT STA WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT USE OF KADENA FOR CONTIN-  
GENCY LANDING IF ITS OPINION WERE SOUGHT. WE BELIEVE  
THAT ALL THAT CAN BE DONE IS TO WAIT UNTIL DIET SESSION  
ENDS BEFORE AGAIN PUTTING PRESSURE ON GOJ.  
MANSFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONTINGENCY PLANNING, SPACE PROGRAMS  
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**Draft Date:** 20 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION NASA  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
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**SAS ID:** 2899522  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPACE SHUTTLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING  
**TAGS:** TSPA, JA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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